

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 have been canceled. Claims 25-49 are presently pending in this application.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

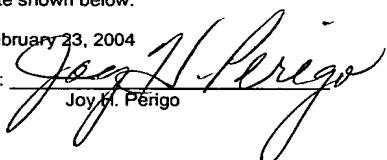
A check is enclosed for \$430.00 for the fee for the response and continuing application. Please charge any additional fees or any underpayment of fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 06-2380, under Order No. 60724-P010C1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 23, 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV255077645US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Patent Applications, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

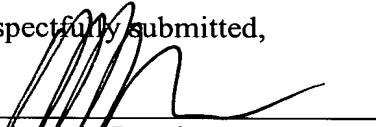
Dated: February 23, 2004

Signature:



Respectfully submitted,

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